

## Message Text

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65

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DHA-02 ORM-01

IO-10 AID-05 ITFE-05 IGA-01 PA-01 PRS-01 SS-15 SP-02

NSC-05 L-03 PM-03 H-02 /074 W  
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R 181149Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7971

INFO SECDEF WASHDC

USIA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

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USIA PASS IEA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SOPN, SREF, TH

SUBJECT: MEO REFUGEES IN THAILAND

1. NBC RADIO CORRESPONDENT DAVID BUTLER SAID HE IS PREPARING A BROADCAST STORY CONCERNING ALLEGATION BY UNNAMED THAI FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL THAT U.S. HAS "SECRETLY" PROVIDED \$150 MILLION TO THAILAND FOR CARE OF MEO REFUGEES.

2. ALLEGATION SURFACED IN NEWSPAPERS HERE AND WAS QUICKLY KNOCKED DOWN BY PRIME MINISTER KUKRIT PRAMOJ IN NEWS CONFERENCE JULY 15.

3. BUTLER'S STORY MAY STIMULATE PRESS QUERIES IN WASHINGTON. WE HAVE USED FOLLOWING Q'S AND A'S IN RESPONDING TO QUESTIONS HERE.  
A: THE NATION AND THE BANGKOK POST REPORTED THAT THE U.S. IS GIVING THAILAND \$150 MILLION TO CARE FOR MEO REFUGEES IN THAILAND. IS THAT TRUE?

A: THAT REPORT IS NOT TRUE.

Q: HAS THE U.S. GIVEN ANY MONEY TO THAILAND FOR MEO REFUGEES?

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A: THE PROBLEM OF MEO REFUGEES WAS DISCUSSED BRIEFLY LAST MONTH

WITH THAI OFFICIALS BY U.S. ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EAST ASIA AND PACIFIC AFFAIRS PHILIP HABIB WHEN MR. HABIB VISITED BANGKOK. AT THAT TIME MR. HABIB SAID THE U.S. WOULD CONSIDER THE REFUGEE PROBLEM. THAT IS WHERE THE SITUATION REMAINS. THERE HAVE BEEN NO ARRANGEMENTS FOR A SPECIFIC U.S. ROLE IN AID OF MEO REFUGEES PRESENTLY IN THAILAND.

Q: HAS THE U.S. CONDUCTED AN AIRLIFT, AS CLAIMED BY A THAI GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL, TO BRING MEOS FROM LAOS TO THAILAND.

A: NO.

Q: WILL THE U.S. ASSIST THAILAND IN CARING FOR THE MEO REFUGEES?

A: MR. HABIB SAID THE U.S. WOULD CONSIDER THE PROBLEM. THE U.S. HAS A LONG HISTORY OF ASSISTING POLITICAL REFUGEES, AND THAT POLICY WILL CONTINUE. HOWEVER, THE REFUGEE PROBLEM IS AN INTERNATIONAL PROBLEM. A LONG-TERM SOLUTION WILL DEPEND ON INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION.

Q: WILL THE U.S. TAKE SOME OR ALL OF THE MEO REFUGEES TO THE U.S.?

A: THERE IS NO PLAN TO RESETTLE MEO REFUGEES IN THE UNITED STATES.

Q: WHY ISN'T THE U.S. TAKING MEO REFUGEES?

A: THE U.S. VIEWS THE PLIGHT OF POLITICAL REFUGEES BOTH SYMPATHETICALLY AND REALISTICALLY. THE PROBLEMS OF REFUGEES FROM DIFFERENT COUNTRIES -- OR EVEN FROM THE SAME COUNTRY -- ARE NOT NECESSARILY RELATED. NEITHER ARE THE SOLUTIONS OF THOSE PROBLEMS. IN OUR VIEW, INTERNATIONAL RESPONSIBILITY AND COOPERATION ARE NECESSARY TO FIND A SOLUTION MOST FAVORABLE TO THE REFUGEES. THE U.S. HAS CLEARLY EXPRESSED WILLINGNESS TO SHARE IN THIS RESPONSIBILITY.

Q: IS THE U.S. WILLING TO HELP CARE FOR MEO REFUGEES IN THAILAND?

A: THE U.S. IS CERTAINLY WILLING TO CONSIDER SUCH AID IN A WAY COMPATIBLE WITH OUR CONSTITUTIONAL PROCESSES AND IN A MEASURE THAT RECOGNIZES INTERNATIONAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE CARE OF REFUGEES.

Q: WOULD THE U.S. CONTRIBUTE MONEY TO HELP CARE FOR THE MEO REFUGEES?

A: THE SPECIFIC ROLE THE U.S. MIGHT TAKE HAS NOT YET BEEN DETERMINED.

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** REFUGEE RELIEF, ALLEGATIONS, PRESS RELEASES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 18 JUL 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
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**Office:** ACTION EA  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** MEO REFUGEES IN THAILAND  
**TAGS:** PFOR, SOPN, SREF, TH, US, LA  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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